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PAGE 01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5683

FOR ACDA AND IO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN, UR, MX, US

SUBJECT: UNGA DISARMAMENT: REPORT ON SALT DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN NOV 5 CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARTIN (US) AND GARCIA ROBLES (MEXICO) PREMARILY DEVOTED TO ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEPTIL), GARCIA ROBLES BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF US-SOVIET REPTO TO UNGA ON STATUS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT TRANSMITTAL OF VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE, PLS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV REFLECTING AGREED NUMERICAL FORCE CEILINGS, "WOULD BE SATISFACTORY" IN MEETING ASSEMBLY'S NEEDS. GARCIA ROBLES ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THIS COURSE WERE NOT PURSUED HE WOULD BRING QUESTION OF SALT STATUS BEFORE ASSEMBLY HIMSELF.

2. MARTIN SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED MATTER WITH ROSHCHIN (USSR). MARTIN SAID THAT ACQUIESCENCE IN ACTION SUGGESTED BY BARCIA ROBLES WAS PROBABLY ADVISABLE IN INTEREST OF AVOIDING MEXICAN AGITATION OF ISSUE IN MANNER OF PREVIOUS YEARS. ON BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE, IF GARCIA ROBLES' SUGGESTION WAS FUFILLED HE WOULD KEEP HIS END OF DEAL. MARTIN ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTED JOINT CIRCULATION OF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS TO UNGA VIA SECRETARIAT.

3. ROSHCHIN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH MARTIN'S VIEWS. HOWEVER, HE RAISED PROBLEM OF IMPLICIT ENDORSEMENT BY USSR OF FORD STATEMENT AND BY US OF BREZHNEV STATEMENT IF ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WERE TRANSMITTED UNDER JOINT COVER. TWO SIDES AGREED TO RAISE MATTER WITH THEIR CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE HAT ABOVE APPROACH WOULD IN FACT PROMISE TO MINIMIZE HAGGLING OVER UNGA RELATIONSHIP TO SALT THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED RECENT ASSEMBLY SESSIONS. ONE WAY AROUND PROBLEM RASIED BY SOVIETS WOULD BE TO CIRQLATE VLADIVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE UNDER JOINT COVER

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